

DATE: February, 2004

TO: Authorized Representative/Food Service Director

FROM: Dean Flaws, Food Distribution Consultant

SUBJECT: 4F (April) Release

**PLEASE ROUTE TO FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR**

1. **4F (April) Commodity Order Form** has been enclosed in this mailing. You may mail, Fax, or use the Internet when ordering for 4F. Deadline for this office to receive the 4F (April) orders is: **March 5, 2004.** April deliveries will start during the first week of April.
2. **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** order forms have also been enclosed in this mailing. Please fill out the order form and return to this office by **March 5, 2004.** This is only for the schools who have already expressed an interest to be in the Summer of 2004 Food Program. These order forms must be mailed or faxed back. These commodity food items will be shipped to schools during their regular April deliveries by Keck, Inc.
3. **Summer Camps 2004** There will be no camp deliveries for Iowa sites in the summer of 2004. A very limited supply of commodities is in surplus at the warehouses. If a surplus in **Bonus** commodities develops, the program may be available in the summer of 2005.
4. **Deletions for 4E (March) Deliveries:**  
Peanut butter slices cancelled for rest of year.
5. **Mozzarella String Cheese by Miceli:** Just a reminder to schools that the Miceli string cheese (#2586) should come to you frozen and stored that way until you are ready to use them. Once they have thawed out they will keep in the refrigerator 4-6 weeks.
6. **Keck deliveries** will usually be able to make it to your schools regardless of adverse weather. Anticipate them to come to your school even if you start late or have dismissed for the day.
7. **"Irradiated" ground beef** surveys from our last mailing are still coming in. If you have an opinion and want to be part of the survey please return those to the BFN office.
8. **When ordering your commodities over the Internet** be sure to click "**UPDATE**" after you have entered your numbers. You can click "**UPDATE**" as many times as you want. Once your numbers have been locked in, the last thing you click is the "**CERTIFY**" button.

**9. CLARIFICATION OF ENTITLEMENT VS. BONUS**

Under the USDA's Commodity Distribution Programs, commodities donated to states fall into one of two categories: ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES AND BONUS COMMODITIES.

**ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES**

Commodities that, by law, USDA must provide to the States. These commodities are supplied in limited amounts, and FNS (Food and Nutrition Services) is mandated to ensure that a certain dollar value of commodities be distributed to each State. Under the NSLP (National School Lunch Program), the amount of entitlement commodities sent to each State is determined by the number of meals served to children during the school year. In the 2003-2004 school year, states were entitled to receive .1575 cents in entitlement commodities for each meal served plus an additional 12% from the 2002 Farm Bill.

**BONUS COMMODITIES**

Bonus commodities are those commodities which USDA makes available under its discretionary authority to dispose of surplus commodities to prevent waste and spoilage. FNS is not mandated to allocate a prescribed amount of bonus commodities to each state, and states are not limited in the amount of bonus commodities they can receive. Bonus commodities do not count against entitlement commodities due a state or against school balances. However, the types and quantities of bonus commodities available change from year to year.

10. **Preference Survey:** We appreciate those who were selected to submit a completed survey taking the time to fill it out. The advisory Council will review them at the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Results will be forwarded to the USDA Regional Office in Denver, Colorado. The Food Preference Survey results are also included with this letter.
11. **Damaged/Shortages on a Release:** On any release, if there are damaged products or shortages it is necessary that the driver initial such items. When there is a driver's initial on the release, proper credit will be given on the invoice amount. All items should be checked carefully at the time of delivery. An over/short paper report should also be sent to the STATE OFFICE.
12. **Also enclosed in this mailing** is a copy of the USDA commodity foods available for schools for the 2004-05 school year.
13. If you have any commodity questions please give us a call at:

(515) 281-4751, Mary Jo Clark  
(515-)281-4032, Dean Flaws

Sincerely,

Dean Flaws, Commodities Consultant (515-281-4032)  
Mary Jo Clark, Commodities Assistant (515-281-4751)  
Bureau of Food and Nutrition

Enclosures